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Illinois
Environmental
Protection Agency

Bureau of Water
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62706

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Illinois' Source Water Assessment Program

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Why Is Illinois EPA Doing A Source Water Assessment?

The 1996 amendment to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act established several programs that will help water suppliers continue to provide safe, adequate and affordable water to their customers. As required by these amendments, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, in cooperation with water utilities and other stakeholders, has developed and the United States Environmental Protection Agency has approved, Illinois' Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program. The purpose of SWAP is to:

- Identify areas that supply drinking water to the public
- Inventory potential sources of contamination
- Determine the vulnerability of the source water t contamination
- Inform the public of the assessment results

Source water assessments will help communities make important decisions about how to protect their drinking water. By working to ensure safe drinking water supplies, the health and economy o the community, as well as the preservation of natu ral resources, will be greatly improved. In additior investment in drinking water treatment will be sustained for a longer time period.

The Illinois' Source Water Assessment Program

More than 11 million people in Illinois rely on public water supplies for drinking water. Assessments will be conducted for all public water supplies in Illinois, including approximately 1,800 community water supplies. In addition, more than 4,100 non-community water supplies will be assessed.

Illinois SWAP activities will be divided into the following areas:

- Community surface water supplies
- Non-community surface water supplies
- Great Lakes (Lake Michigan)
- Community groundwater supplies
- Non-community groundwater supplies
- Mixed ground and surface water community supplies

Illinois' Wellhead Protection Program

Illinois' Approved Wellhead Protection Program establishes wellhead protection areas in two phases.

In the first phase, all 10,000 public water supply wells were delineated using the fixed radius method, the distance criteria, and a threshold of 1,000 feet.

In the second phase, community water supply wells utilizing unconfined aquifers are delineated using analytical models, numerical models, or hydrogeologic mapping.

Illinois Statistics

- More than 4 million people rely on groundwater for drinking water
- Approximately 7.9 million people rely on surface water
- Approximately 6,000 public water supply systems exist in Illinois
- There are more than 10,000 community and non-community wells in Illinois
- Approximately 1,800 community water supplies exist
- Approximately 4,100 non-community water supplies exist

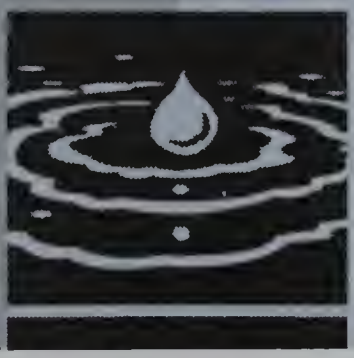
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Preparation for SWAP

Participation in the SWAP process will help protect Illinois' drinking water. Communities, whether using groundwater or surface water, should take an active role in the assessment of their drinking water supplies. For more information, community water supplies can contact the Source Water Protection staff at the number below. Public non-community supplies can contact their local health department.



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